

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 9

By Cooper J

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Representative Butch Lewis for laudable service to the Democratic Party of Tennessee and upon being named "Mr. Democrat" by the Highland Rim Democratic Club.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community and political leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, One such noteworthy individual is Representative Butch Lewis, a native of Coffee County who has strongly supported Democratic efforts in the county and throughout the State for many years; and

WHEREAS, On January 30, 2003, Representative Butch Lewis will be installed as president of the Highland Rim Democratic Club and will also be honored as "Mr. Democrat"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis, a Senior Vice President of American City Bank, served with profound integrity and alacrity as a member of the House of Representatives during the 98<sup>th</sup> through 102<sup>nd</sup> General Assemblies, ably representing the 47<sup>th</sup> District; and

WHEREAS, During his ten years as a member of the General Assembly, Representative Lewis served on numerous committees, including the Fiscal Review Committee, House

Finance, Ways and Means Committee and House Commerce Committee, and was the Chairman of the Small Business Subcommittee; and

WHEREAS, Speaker Jimmy Naifeh evidenced great faith in Butch Lewis's abilities by appointing him to serve on several special study committees, including those on fireworks safety, foster care and graduated driver licenses; Representative Lewis later sponsored the Graduated Driver License Bill, which had the stated goal of reducing the number of accidents on Tennessee's roads; and

WHEREAS, An effective and conscientious public servant, Representative Lewis sponsored and passed legislation pertaining to education, child protection, economic development and consumer protection; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis, whose legislative priority was education, worked for the passage of the Education Improvement Act and the creation of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classrooms across the State; he also expressed his dedication to excellence in public education by working to secure and maintain funding for this State's K-12 and higher education systems, including Motlow College, Tennessee Technological University at McMinnville and the University of Tennessee Space Institute in Tullahoma; and

WHEREAS, Representative Lewis was also a prime sponsor of legislation creating Family Resource Centers across the State to identify and assist at-risk children; Coffee County now has six of these centers, more than any other county in the state; and

WHEREAS, Working with the Department of Economic and Community Development, Mr. Lewis helped to recruit new industry and businesses to the community and secured a record amount of new highway construction dollars for the 47<sup>th</sup> House District; and

WHEREAS, Representative Lewis has also evidenced his allegiance to Democratic ideals through his service as a Manchester Alderman and as a member of the Coffee County Democratic Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, In addition to his service in the General Assembly, Representative Butch Lewis has still found time to lend his remarkable talents to other notable causes; he is a member of the Coffee County Farm Bureau, the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, the Tullahoma Chamber of Commerce, the University of Tennessee Space Institute Support Council and the Coffee County Beautification Committee and has previously served on the Motlow College Foundation Committee, the Manchester Industrial Board, the Board of Directors of Hospice of the Highland Rim and the Board of Directors of the Hands-On Science Center; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lewis served with great valor and acumen in the United States Air Force and is a lifetime member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion and the Masons; and

WHEREAS, As a member of St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Butch Lewis has been a voice of integrity, often reaching out to people whom life has treated unkindly, and exemplifying the ideal of the humble Christian, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Representative Lewis epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his estimable career, Mr. Lewis has demonstrated the remarkable ability to empathize with people from all walks of life, earning the unbridled respect and admiration of his legislative colleagues and constituents alike; and

WHEREAS, This General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Representative Lewis for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens, which warrants his decoration as "Mr. Democrat"; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we commend Representative Butch Lewis for his laudable service to the people of the 47<sup>th</sup> House District, to the Democratic Party and to the great State of Tennessee

and honor him upon his installation as president of the Highland Rim Democratic Club and his receipt of the "Mr. Democrat" award from that same club.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.